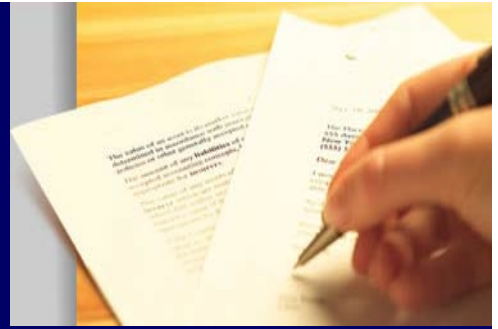


DIocese OF BEAUMONT

OFFICE OF CATHOLIC SCHOOLS



VOLUME 12, NUMBER 1

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Mission Statement

“...to ensure that the children in the Diocese of Beaumont develop spiritually, intellectually, physically, and emotionally to their fullest potential so that they may help shape society according to the Catholic values which we cherish.”

SPIRITUAL THOUGHT

John Cooper, ISPD Enrollment Management Specialist

As Catholic school educators, our Trinitarian tradition tells us that God loved us into being. Jesus came to witness the depth of that love and the Holy Spirit empowers us to share that love with the world. Our Catholic school tradition follows this action of the Trinity. Generations before us loved our school into being. Students, faculty, and staff witness the depth of that love each and every day. School spirit empowers all of us to share that love.

Year after year, faculty and staff take the lead in loving our school into being. Without students, the love we express in our school is meaningless. Therefore, it is the responsibility of each and every faculty and staff member to act in support of our effort to enroll and retain a student body that is of optimal quantity, quality and diversity. AMEN.

FROM THE SUPERINTENDENT

By Superintendent, Nancy Collins

Back to School, Back to School, everywhere you go the signs are saying **Back to School!** As if teachers, staffs and administrators really need reminders that it's that time of year again! Teachers lament that the summer was too short but students are ready to get back to their school friends and the excitement of a new year with fun activities – **Rah! Rah! Rah! Be True to Your School.** I'm not so sure that students are looking forward to homework, but oh, well, that is also the reality of Catholic schools.

The theme for Catholic Schools Week is Catholic Schools A+ for America. What has been our impact on America and how can a Catholic education impact the present and future of our world. Exploring the answer to these questions, perhaps, could create

“teachable moments” for our schools this year. Let's not assume that students make the connection between collecting “Pennies for the Poor” during the Christmas holidays and social justice issues such as poverty, hunger, and homelessness. Perhaps, more guided instruction at their developmental levels could stimulate students into asking more questions about the injustices and neglect in our society and then problem solve solutions.

Catholic schools have trained many fine leaders in our area as well as across the state and country. Students may know past and present leaders in society that have and are making a difference. Just as we study saints and martyrs, let us also recognize current role models that are Catholic school

graduates, some may even be our students' parents or grandparents.

Pope Benedict in his address to Catholic educators in the spring of 2008 stated that “Catholic schools, their parents and teachers have helped generations of immigrants to rise from poverty and take their place in mainstream society.” This effort continues today offering an “outstanding apostolate of hope to millions of children.”

I challenge our teachers to open the eyes of our young people entrusted to us to appreciate the great impact that a Catholic school education has on their lives and on society. Catholic schools are a gift for Southeast Texas and for America!

Have a blessed 2010-11 school year!

DIOCESAN ACCOLADES



Teachers Celebrate Mass Together August 12, 2010 by [easttexascatholic](#)

Teachers, principals and staff from the Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont gathered for the Convocation Mass for Catholic

Schools Aug. 12 at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica, Beaumont. Bishop Curtis Guillory, SVD, celebrated Mass and spoke about the importance of a Christian education. "Christian education not only develops the mind but, perhaps more importantly, it develops the heart," Bishop Guillory said. He also talked about the values that a Catholic education can instill in students. "Catholic schools infuse a sense of respect, dignity and service into students. That service in the name of the common good should be our focus," Bishop Guillory said. Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont begin the school year Aug. 16.



Back To School August 16, 2010 by [easttexascatholic](#)

Students around the diocese returned to our Catholic Schools on Monday, August 16 with their parents in tow. Some schools started the day with Mass and others started with a regular class day. Parents got a chance to meet the teachers and staff, sign up for various committees, hear about any changes in school policies, and learn their children's schedules for the upcoming year.



DIOCESAN ACCOLADES

Teachers Hit the Books August 10, 2010 by [easttexasatholic](http://easttexasatholic.com)

Reading is an important aspect of education, and teachers from Catholic schools in the Diocese of Beaumont focused on that at a teacher in-service August 10 at St. Anthony Cathedral Basilica Center, Beaumont. The workshop was led by Mary Lou Slania, director of professional development for Neuhaus Education Center, an institution providing teachers new methods of literacy instruction.



Unexpected Underachievement, Neuhaus Education Center Mary Lou Slania

Ms. Slania explained the many reading development models that have been around over time. The best method incorporates Cognitive, Psychological and Ecological Components. Dyslexic students, who have a strong intervention program that improves phonological awareness and decoding, can experience a change in the way that their brain functions.

The Tarnow Center in Houston that visited last April had the same message about ADHD/ADD students. With intervention, and the earlier the better, students can improve their concentration and organizational skills.



All this is good news for students and parents! As teachers, we must continue to educate ourselves about reading instruction. Ms. Slania informed us that students who are struggling readers in third grade will be struggling readers in ninth grade. She also said that research shows that students who have a strong vocabulary are stronger readers. Students who have a broad knowledge about many topics score better on achievement testing. Sooooo, what are the implications for our instructional programs?

Please read the following article from EDUTOPIA. Check out the great links that are provided.

2010 Calendar:**Mon., Sept. 6**

Labor Day
Student/Teacher
Holiday

Sat., Sept., 18

SAS Dinner, Dance &
Auction @ St. Jude
Family Life Center

September 20-25

MKCHS Homecoming
Week

September 25

MKCHS Homecoming
Dance—New Gym
8:00pm-11:00pm

Thu., Oct. 7

SMS Living Rosary
St. Mary Gym

Fri., Oct. 15

End of 1st Nine Weeks

October 18-22

Testing Days

Sat., Oct. 23

SACBS Golf
Tournament Bayou Din

Fri., Oct. 29

Early Dismissal Day

Fri., Oct. 29

Religion Teacher
In-Service Presenter:
Diana Dudoit Raiche
1:30-4:30

Fri., Oct. 29

Gifted and Talented
In-Service Presenter:
Maribeth Morris
1:30-4:30

Friday, Oct., 29

MKCHS Senior Football
Night

EDUTOPIA Foundation news and editorials**How Important is Teaching Literacy in All Content Areas?****BY REBECCA ALBER****AUGUST 4, 2010**

You are busy this summer planning and reworking lessons -- adding, adjusting, and tweaking. Here's something to think about, fast forward to fall: We know students do plenty of listening in our classes, but what about the other three communication skills they should be engaging in and practicing daily? I'm talking about reading, writing, and speaking. Let's define literacy. It was once known simply as the ability to read and write. Today it's about being able to make sense of and engage in advanced reading, writing, listening, and speaking. Someone who has reached advanced literacy in a new language, for example, is able to engage in these four skills with their new language in any setting -- academically or casually.

Literacy is an *Every-Century Skill*

If you are a math, history, science, or art teacher, where does literacy fit into your classroom instruction? It's easy to believe that literacy instruction is solely the charge of language arts teachers, but, frankly, this just is not so. Naysayers, please take a moment to think about this quote:

"Adolescents entering the adult world in the 21st century will read and write more than at any other time in human history. They will need advanced levels of literacy to perform their jobs, run their households, act as citizens, and conduct their personal lives." -- Richard Vaca, author of *Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum*. With content standards looming, it's easy to only focus on the content we teach, and covering material. We have so much to tell students and share with them. However, are we affording students enough time daily to practice crucial communication skills? Here's one way to look at it: Content is *what* we teach, but there is also the *how*, and this is where literacy instruction comes in. There are an endless number of engaging, effective strategies to get students to think about, write about, read about, and talk about the content you teach. The ultimate goal of literacy instruction is to build a student's comprehension, writing skills, and overall skills in communication. Ask yourself, *how* do I mostly convey the information and knowledge to my students? Do I turn primarily to straight lecture, or teacher talk? Or, do I allow multiple opportunities for students to discover information on their own?

Speaking

Students having academic or high-level conversations in small and large group settings does not happen overnight. It takes time -- and scaffolding -- to create a Socratic Seminar setting in your classroom. In order for our students to engage in academic conversation, or accountable talk, they need plenty of practice with informal conversation in pairs and triads. Use the following strategies frequently for building students' oral skills: think-pair-share, elbow partner, shoulder share, and chunk and chew. Kids need to be talking and not sitting passively in their seats. Remember, Vygotsky believed learning to be a very social act! For every 5-8 minutes you talk, give them 1-2 minutes to talk to each other. You can walk around and listen, informally assessing and checking for understanding. Conversation helps immensely when processing new content and concepts. Students also will surely have more fruitful answers to share (be sure to always provide think time when asking questions of students).

2010-11 Calendar:**Sat., Oct. 30**SAS Carnival
St. Anne School
11:00am—5:00pm**Sun., Oct. 31**SMS Carnival
St. Mary School
1:00pm**November 2-8**

SMS Camp Kappe

Sat., Nov. 13Catholic Charities
Harvest of Hope
Gala MCM Elegante**Sat., Nov. 13**

SCS Fall Fundraiser

Tue., Nov. 23Early Dismissal for
Thanksgiving Break**November 24-26**

Thanksgiving Break

December 13-17MKCHS First
Semester Exams**Fri., Dec. 17**End of 2nd Nine
Weeks**Fri., Dec. 17**Early Dismissal for
Christmas Break**Dec. 20—Jan. 2**

Christmas Break

Mon., Jan. 3Teacher Workday
Student Holiday

EDUTOPIA CONTINUED

Writing

When was the last time your students had sore hands from writing in your class? Just like conversation, writing helps us make sense of what we are learning and helps us make connections to our own lives or others' ideas. You can't avoid thinking when you write. Students need to be writing every day, in every classroom. How about adding to your instruction more informal and fun writing activities like quick writes, stop and jots, one-minute essays, [graffiti conversations](#)? Not all writing assignments need be formal ones. If you haven't heard of the [National Writing Project](#) (NWP), it's the largest-scale and longest-standing teacher development program in U.S. history. Workshops are offered nationwide (usually through a local university) where teachers of all content areas learn new and exciting strategies to encourage, support, and grow the young writers in their classrooms. Two tenets of the NWP that I think produce wide gains in student writing: teachers writing side-by-side with students, and creating time on a regular basis in your classroom for writer's workshop that follows a type of [writing process](#) that puts the writer in charge (of content, voice, and structure).

Reading

The days of believing that we could hand informational text or a novel to a student and assume he or she makes full meaning of it on their own is a teaching mode of the past. Whether we like it or not, regardless of the content we teach, we are all reading instructors. Scaffolding the reading by using effective strategies for pre-, during, and after reading, such as: [previewing text](#), reading for a purpose, making predictions and connections, [think alouds](#), and using graphic organizers will support all our students, and not just struggling readers and English learners. Another onus not only on English teachers, but all teachers as reading instructors? We need to inspire both a love for reading, and build reading stamina in our students (this means eyes and mind on the page for more than a minute!) But, how do we do this? A high-interest classroom library is a great place to start. If you are a Title I school, there should be funds set aside for classroom libraries. If not, advocate for all classrooms at your school site to have a library, even if it's just a handful of books to get you going. You can make the investment yourself, or have a book-raiser party. Email all your friends a wish list for books that students have requested and those easy sells (*Twilight*, *Guinness Book of World Records*...). Ask them to bring one or two of the books to your cocktail/appetizer party. (Read this [Edutopia post](#) for ideas on how to set up and manage your classroom library). If you are a physics teacher, do all your books need to be about science? Absolutely not! But you might want to focus primarily on informational, non-fiction books. In fact, with the new national standards for English emphasizing more non-fiction text and quite a bit less literature, I say all K-12 teachers need to enhance their libraries with more non-fiction (this can include newspaper and magazine subscriptions as well). (I'm not going to go into listening as a communication skill, since I think our students do plenty of that already, but here's a great Web site with [characteristics](#) of an effective listener you can share with your students and they can practice with each other.) What role does literacy play in your classroom? What are some ways you weave instruction in reading, writing, and speaking into the content you teach? Please share by posting your comments at <http://www.edutopia.org/blog/literacy-instruction-across-curriculum-importance>.

2011 Calendar:

Mon., Jan. 17
Martin Luther King
Teacher Workday
Student Holiday

Fri., Jan. 28
SCS Zydegras
Fundraiser

Jan. 30—Feb. 5
Catholic Schools Week

Mon., Jan. 31
SMS Open House
St. Mary School
6pm-7pm

Wed., Feb. 2
Rainbow Mass with
Bishop Guillory 9:00am
@ St. Anthony Basilica

Feb. 5 OR Feb. 12
MKCHS 2nd Annual
Dawg Dash Saturday

February 7-12
MKCHS Twirp Week

Sat., Feb. 12
MKCHS Twirp Dance

Mon., Feb. 21
Presidents' Day
Teacher/Student
Holiday

February 23-25
Principals' Retreat
American Airline
Center—Fort Worth

Sat., Feb. 26
SACBS Mardi Gras Gala
Beaumont Country
Club

Fri., March 4
End of 3rd Nine Weeks

March 7-11
Spring Break

Mon., March 21
SMS Teacher - Parent
& Student Conferences

Special Learning Needs Update

As we begin the 2010 – 2011 school year, we now have a guide for helping those students who have special learning needs, the **Special Learning Needs Teacher/Parent/Administration Handbook and the Teacher Resource Handbook**. Each school should have in place a consulting team that includes the principal. The purpose of this team is to provide support for the classroom teacher when a student is identified as struggling in any academic area and also could include those who have behavioral issues. According to the plan in the handbook, the team will come together to collaborate on how best to serve a student's challenges to being successful. The **Resource Handbook** can be the tool to use as a guide for information and identification of the problem. **If you do not have these handbooks, please consult with your principal. Also, principals, be sure that all your teachers know the names of your consultation team.**

2011 Calendar:**Fri., March 25**

SACBS Annual Fish Fry
SACB Center
10:30am—3:30pm

Fri., April 8

Teacher In-Service
Student Holiday

Thu., April 21

Early Dismissal
Easter Break

April 22-25

Easter Break

April 26, 2011

NCEA New Orleans

April 30—May 1

SMS School Festival
St. Mary School

Saturday, May 7

MKCHS Prom
(Tentative)

Thu., May 12

Bishop's Teacher
Appreciation Banquet
St. Anthony Center

Friday, May 20

MKCHS Baccalaureate
Mass @ St. Anthony
7:00pm

Saturday, May 21

SMS 8th Grade
Graduation

Saturday, May 21

MKCHS Graduation
Beaumont Civic Center
4:00pm

Friday, May 27

SMS May Crowning
St. Mary School

Friday, May 27

Last Day of Classes

DIOCESAN SCHOOL BOARD

Who is serving on Bishop Guillory's Diocesan School Board?

Michael Fuljenz, President
Bill Scott, Vice President
Rev. Tino Barrera
Greg Thompson
Aurora Nortman
Ted Hillin
Dottie Johnson
Bret Duplant
Lee Ann Fuselier
Nancy Collins, Superintendent

LEGAL

Texas Catholic Conference Education Department requires that our programs called formerly Extended Day be called Before/After Care Programs. Please be sure that all your correspondences reflect this change. TCCED further requires that Directors of the program complete a checklist, a copy should be sent to the Superintendent.

PROVISIONS THAT SB 68 REQUIRED FOR EXEMPTION FROM LICENSING INCLUDE BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO THE FOLLOWING:

By: Margaret McGettrick, Director of Education, Texas Catholic Conference

- ◆ Our Before and After school programs must have approved curriculum contents.
- ◆ If we have contracted with a third party provider who does not wish to be licensed we must approve their Before and After school curriculum.
- ◆ If the third party provider wishes to remain licensed they may do so without the school/superintendent approving their curriculum content.
- ◆ There will not be any stipulation on the number of hours we conduct Before and After school care.
- ◆ Pre-kindergarten (K3 and K4) classes are now included in our exemption status.

As we continue to communicate with Sasha Rasco at the DFPS I will keep you informed of any further information as you prepare for the upcoming school year.

KUDOS TO OUR TEACHERS

The Beaumont A&M Club selected Deborah (Debbie) Thompson as the 2010 recipient of the 51st Annual "Outstanding Classroom teacher Award" for St. Anne Catholic School. Congratulations Debbie!

The Beaumont A&M Club selected Stephanie Ann (Roach) Samaha as the 2010 recipient of the 51st Annual "Outstanding Classroom teacher Award" for Msgr. Kelly Catholic High School. Congratulations Stephanie!

Debbie and Stephanie's friends, family and fellow teachers have been invited to attend the Beaumont A&M Club Meeting to be held in Culotta Hall at St. Jude Thaddeus Catholic Church on Tuesday, September, 28, 2010. The social begins at 6:30 pm followed by dinner and the presentations. The guest speaker for the evening will be Mr. Charles H. Weinbaum, Jr. '47, Distinguished Alumni of Texas A&M University.

THE INFORMATION IN THIS NEWSLETTER IS FOR THE USE OF
THE ADMINISTRATORS, FACULTY, BOARDS, PASTORS, DEPARTMENT HEADS, AND
PRINCIPALS WHO ARE REQUESTED TO FORWARD INFORMATION TO APPROPRIATE PERSONS.